

MINUTES: Healthy Carolinians of Macon County – Environmental Quality Task Force

DATE: October 29, 2009

PLACE: Health and Human Services Building

TIME: 9:00 – 10:30 AM

ATTENDEES: Nelson Bates, Rhonda Blanton, Dennis Holland, Kathy McGaha, Teresa Murray, Barry Patterson, Chuck Seigel, Al Slagle and Charles Womack

GUEST: Josh Pope

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
Welcome and Approval of Minutes	Barry Patterson welcomed everyone to today's meeting of the Environmental Quality Task Force. Mr. Patterson asked the task force members to review the minutes of the last meeting. Chuck Seigel motioned for the approval of the minutes. Al Slagle 2 nd the motion, with a unanimous vote for approval.		
Mapping: Safe Slope Ordinance	<p>Barry Patterson introduced today's guest – Josh Pope. Mr. Pope is a GIS analyst for Macon County.</p> <p>Mr. Pope thanked the committee members for inviting him to meet with this group and explain the mapping features available on the county website and how best to use them.</p> <p>Mr. Pope explained the first step is to go the Macon County website at www.maconnc.org. Once there, scroll down to the section titled Information Technology Applications. Under this section, open GIS Home.</p> <p>Under this section, Mr. Pope reviewed the titles of sections at the top of this page. This titles included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Tax ID Search▪ Owner Name Search▪ 911 Address Search▪ Search Subdivision <p>Mr. Pope also reviewed the Map Contents. The titles under this section are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Approx. Contours (Mountain)▪ Tax▪ Addressing/Transportation		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Water/Flood Features▪ Boundaries▪ Soils/Landslide Hazard Data▪ 2006 Aerial▪ Elevation (feet)▪ Hillshade <p>Mr. Pope said his department is currently in the process of changing and updating some of the information that is currently available on this website. Once completed, Mr. Pope said he would be available to go out in the community and explain this site and how to use it.</p>		
Home Heating Oil Leaks	<p>Al Slagle filled in for Kathy Tinsley who could not be here today. Mr. Slagle said Ms. Tinsley had contacted several agencies and obtained several handouts for the committee members to review.</p> <p>Mr. Slagle explained that private/residential underground storage tanks (UST's) are not regulated like gasoline station and commercial tanks are regulated. He explained that unless there is a spill or release from a private UST, there are no reporting requirements.</p> <p>Typical signs of a spill include: lowered fuel levels inconsistent with use, stains on the soil, strong petroleum odors, puddles of oil, or dead vegetation around the fill or vent pipes. If these signs are present, the homeowner is to contact the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Hazardous Waste Section.</p> <p>The committee members reviewed all the handouts and pamphlets that Ms. Tinsley had provided. The committee members commended her for the effort and time she had put into gathering this information.</p>		

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Home Inspection Forms	Teresa Murray provided the committee members with samples of the State of North Carolina Residential Property Disclosure Statement. The committee members reviewed and discussed the sample form. The committee members thanked Ms. Murray for providing the form.		
Wells	<p>Barry Patterson informed the committee members that dry wells continues to be a problem for county residents, Mr. Patterson said this situation has improved slightly with the recent rains, but he advised that this will be a continuing problem in the future.</p> <p>Mr. Patterson briefly explained artesian wells to the committee members, indicating there are liabilities for homeowners who allow them to flow freely. He offered to expound on this topic further at the next meeting and bring materials for the committee members to review.</p>	Barry Patterson will talk further about artesian wells at the next meeting.	
Environmental Health Update	<p>Barry Patterson updated the committee members on the changes in the Environmental Health section. Mr. Patterson stated that the On-Site Wastewater Section had gone paperless. He stated that Food & Lodging Section would be next, with the Well Section following.</p> <p>Mr. Patterson explained that there have been no food borne outbreaks in Macon County in over three years. Mr. Patterson also said there had been two rabies clinics in the past year with over 1800 animals being vaccinated. Mr. Patterson also informed the committee members of the opening of the county animal shelter.</p> <p>Mr. Patterson said the WADE program is still ongoing and said the WADE representative is coming to Macon County every Tuesday to further examine Cartoogechaye Creek to find “straight pipes” and other issues.</p> <p>Mr. Patterson asked the committee members to further consider tackling the issues of water and groundwater</p>		

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	concerns. Mr. Patterson said these are two very important topics and hoped this committee would further discuss them in the future.		
Next Meeting Date	The next meeting of the Environmental Quality Task Force will be held on Thursday, December 10 th , from 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM in Meeting Rooms A/B at the Health and Human Services Building.		